



# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

## INFORMATION SERVICE

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

For Release UPON RECEIPT

### FISHERIES CATCH IN LAKE STATES INCREASES IN 1939

Approximately 7,400 commercial fishermen of the Lake States--New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, and Minnesota--received \$6,762,000 for the 85,235,000 pounds of fishery products--spread among 33 classifications--which they caught in the Great Lakes and the International Lakes of Northern Minnesota during 1939.

Compared with the catch in the previous year, this shows an increase in value of \$679,000, or 11 percent, and 3,710,000 pounds, or 5 percent, in volume, according to figures released today in Statistical Bulletin No. 1415 by the Fish and Wildlife Service, United States Department of the Interior.

Based on value to the fishermen, lake trout was by far the most important item, \$1,886,000 being received for the 9,792,000-pound catch. Next five species, in point of value, were: whitefish (common and Menominee), 4,119,000 pounds at \$734,000; blue pike, 9,151,000 pounds, at \$707,000; chubs, 4,440,000 pounds, at \$706,000; lake herring, 22,923,000 pounds, at \$642,000; yellow pike, 6,882,000 pounds, at \$594,000.

Michigan ranked first among the Lake States with respect to both volume and value of the catch. Production in that State amounted to 29,047,000 pounds, valued at \$2,531,000. Not far behind was Ohio with 23,512,000 pounds, worth \$1,767,000. Catch by lakes was greatest in Lake Erie, with 28,663,000 pounds, followed by Lake Michigan with 23,027,000 pounds.

In addition to the 7,390 commercial fishermen, these fisheries gave employment to 2,973 other persons in 1939; 2,942 in wholesale and manufacturing establishments, and 31 on transporting craft. Salaries and wages paid to employees in the 212 fishery wholesale and manufacturing establishments amounted to \$2,812,000, and manufactured products produced by these firms were valued at \$3,956,000.

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